



Julie Flett

# WE ALL PLAY

kimêtawânaw





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kimêtaŵânaw











kinanâskomitin, dad, for your gentle heart  
and the medicine of your humor.

Growing up with you taught me about  
our connections to the land that inspires  
so much of the work that I do.

In loving memory, Clarence Flett,  
Swampy Cree, Red River Métis (1936–2019).

Julie Flett

# WE ALL PLAY

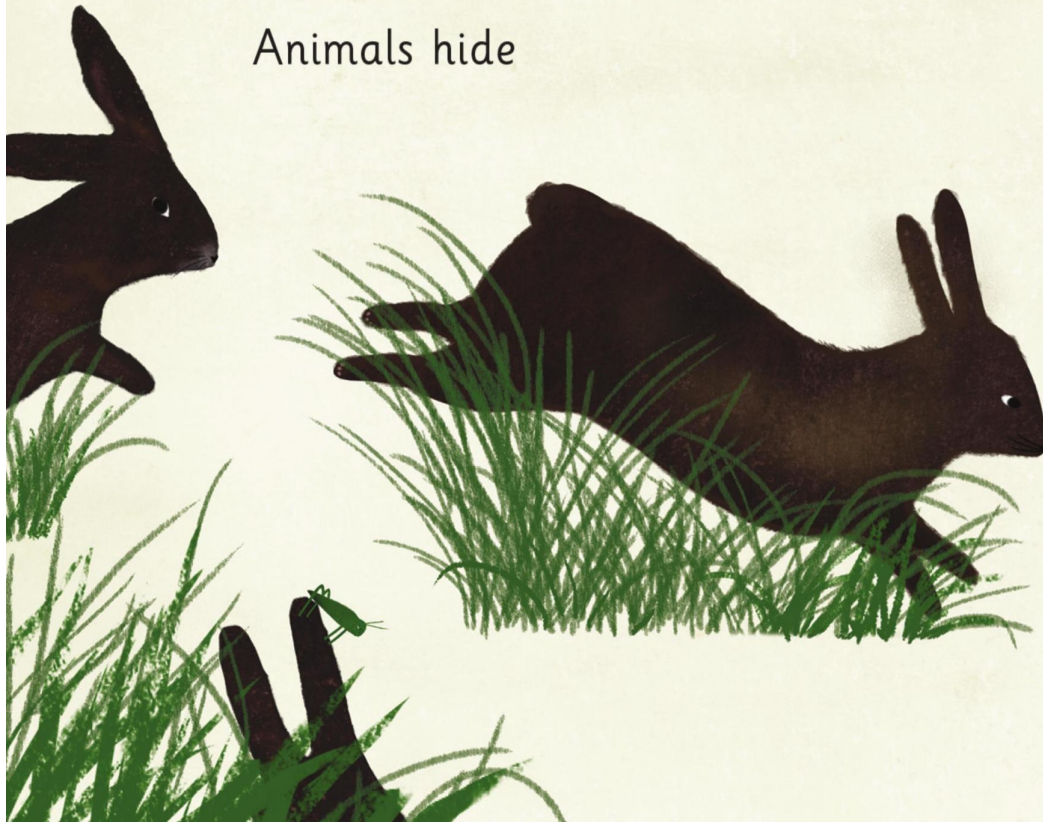
kimêtaŵânaw



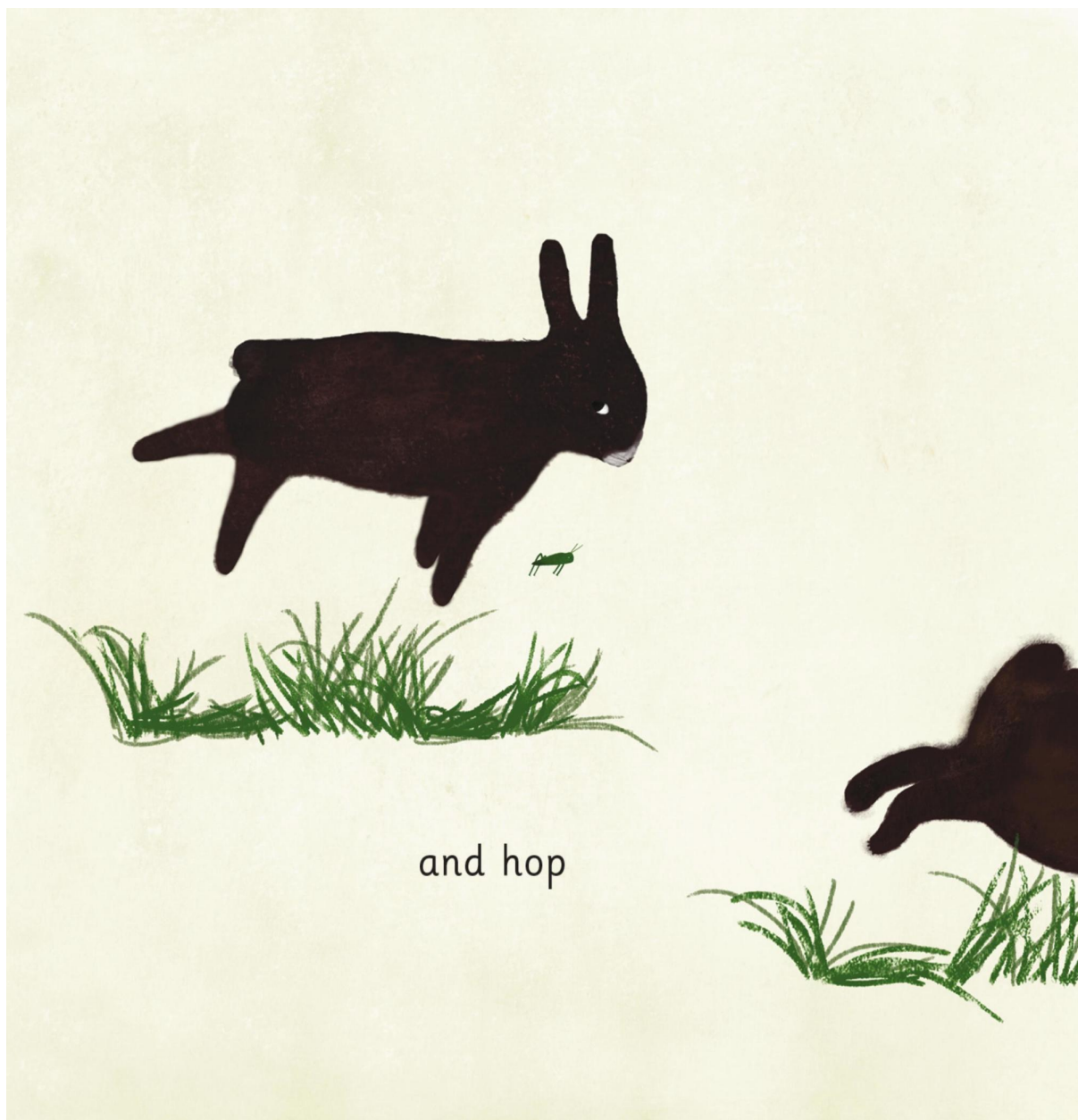
GREYSTONE KIDS

GREYSTONE BOOKS • VANCOUVER / BERKELEY

Animals hide



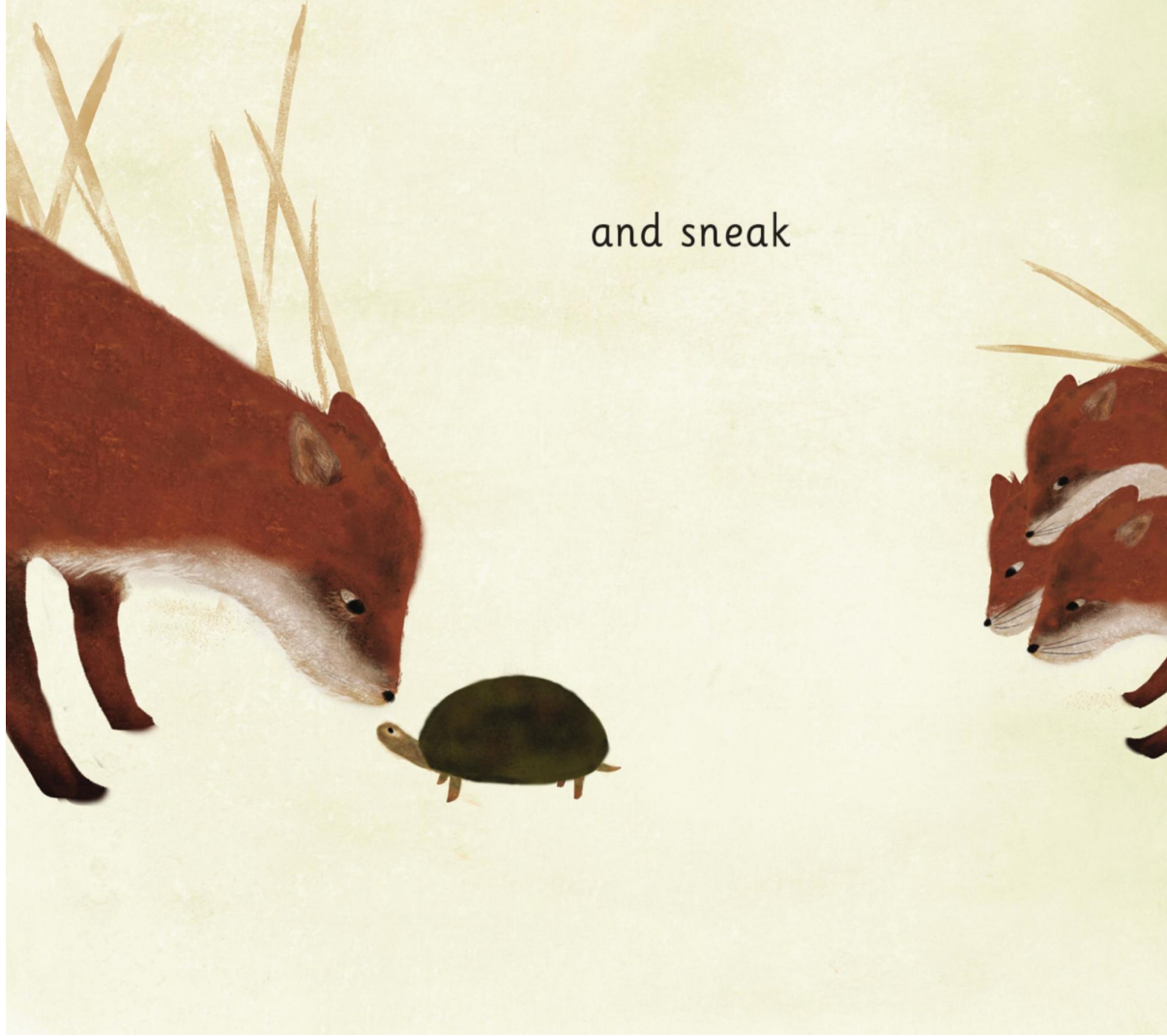






and sniff

and sneak





and peek



and peep.



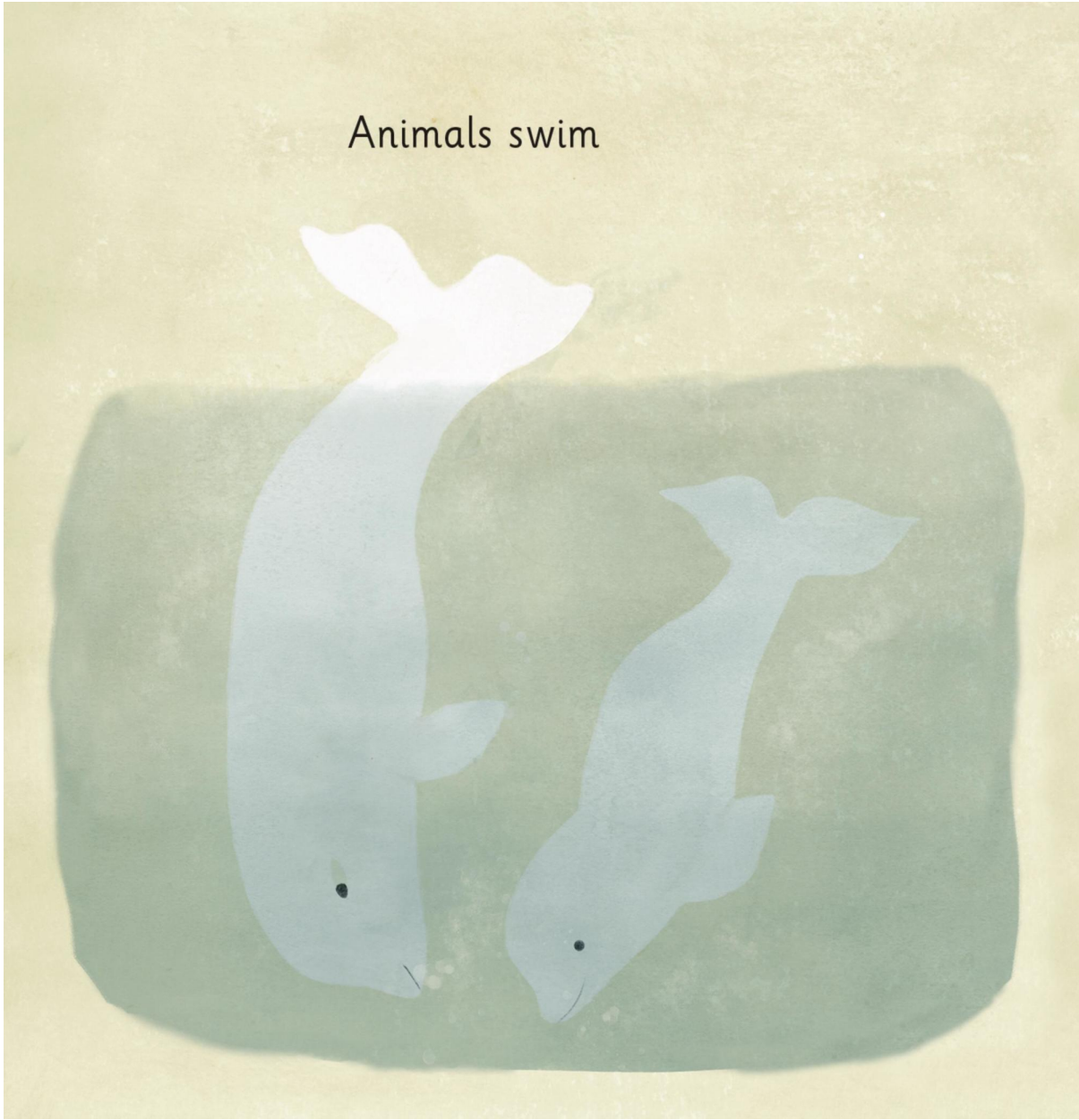




We play too!  
kimêtawânaw mîna



Animals swim



and squirt





and bubble







and chase





and chirp.

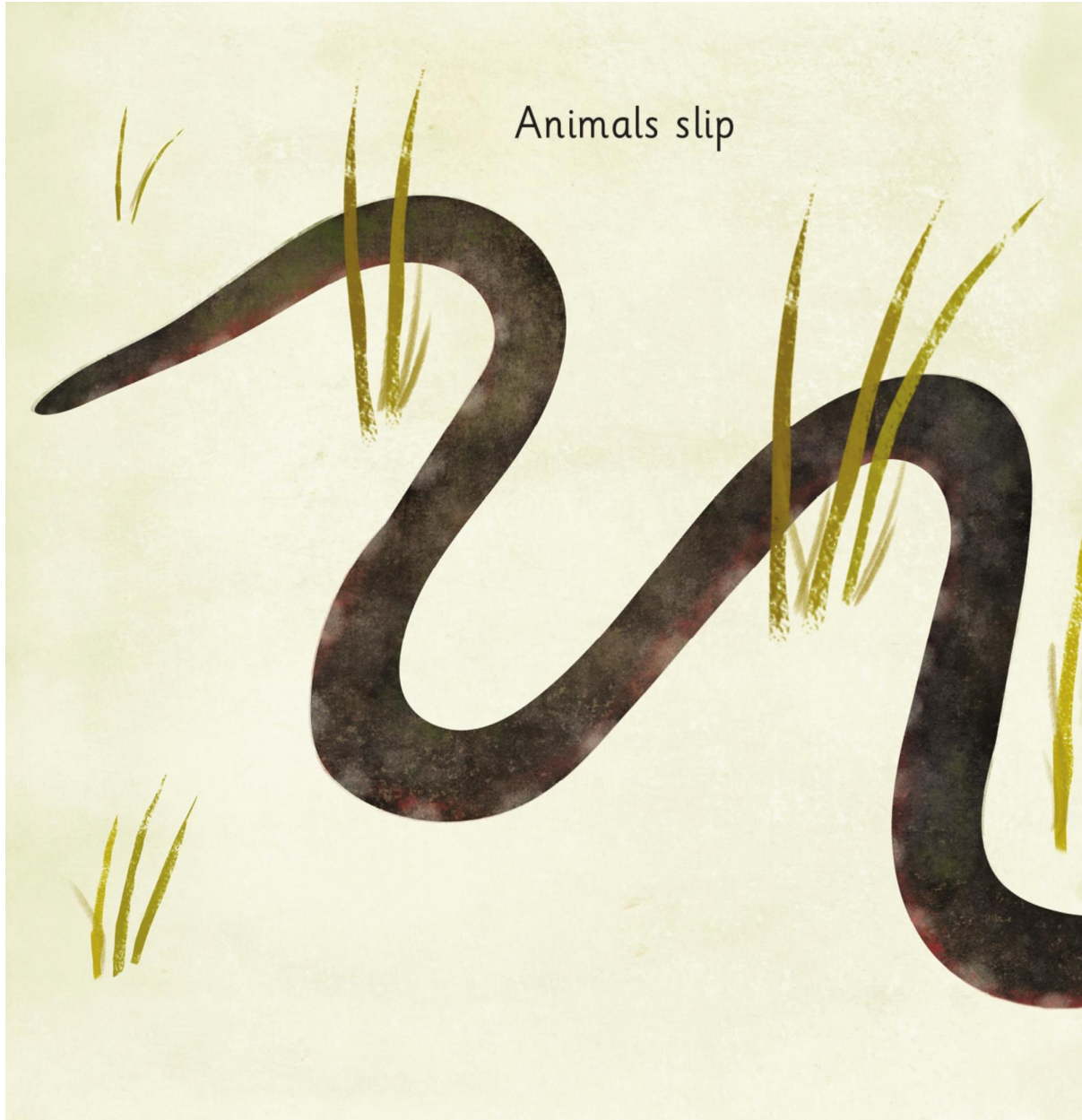








Animals slip





and slide

and rumble







and roll

and wiggle





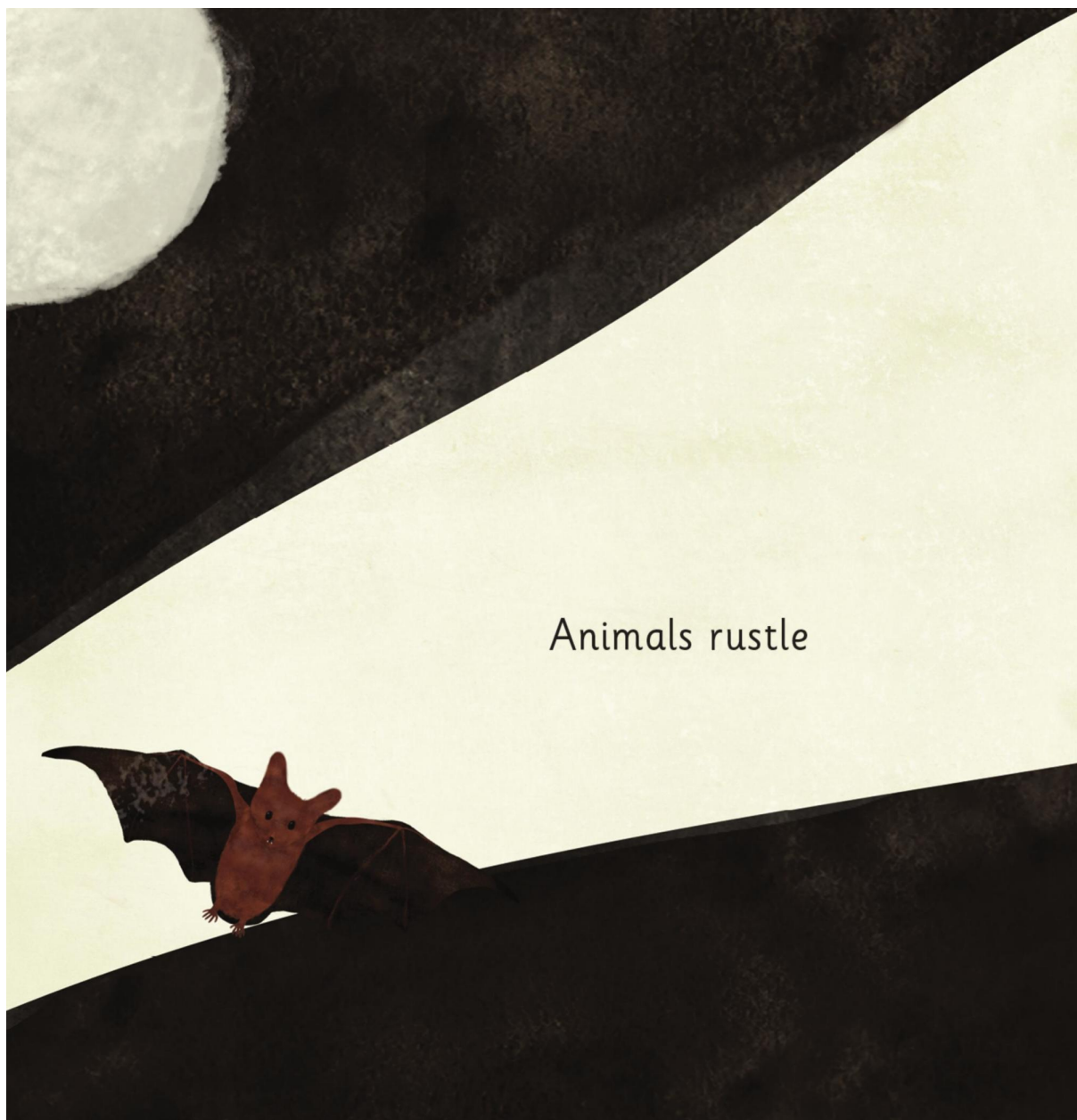
and wobble.





We play too!  
kimêtawânaw mîna





Animals rustle



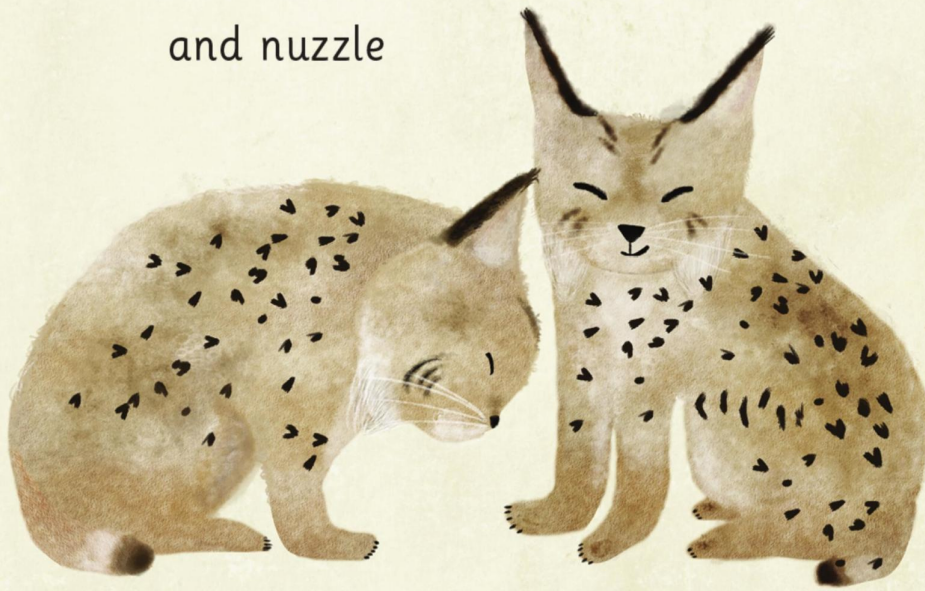


and roost

and nudge

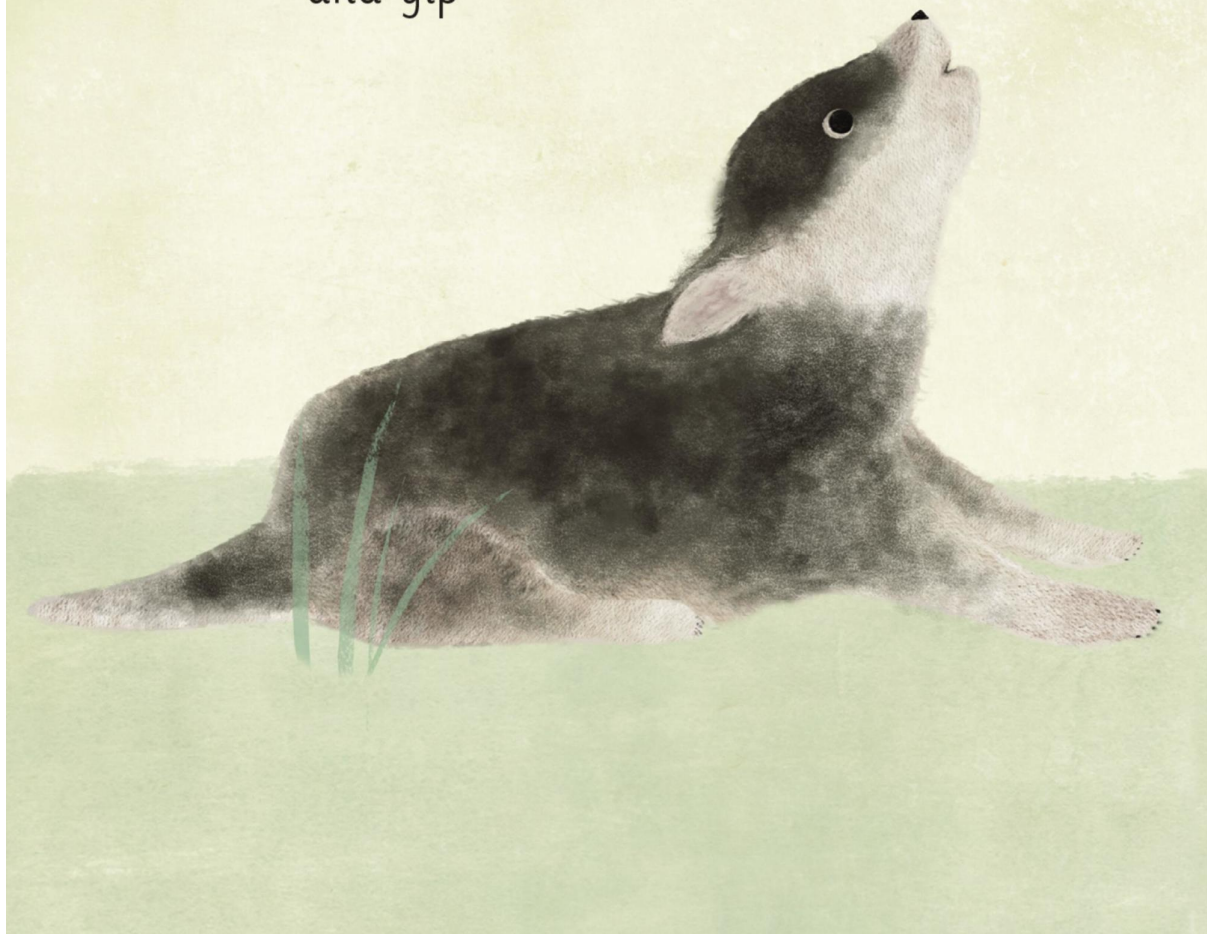


and nuzzle





and yip



and yawn.

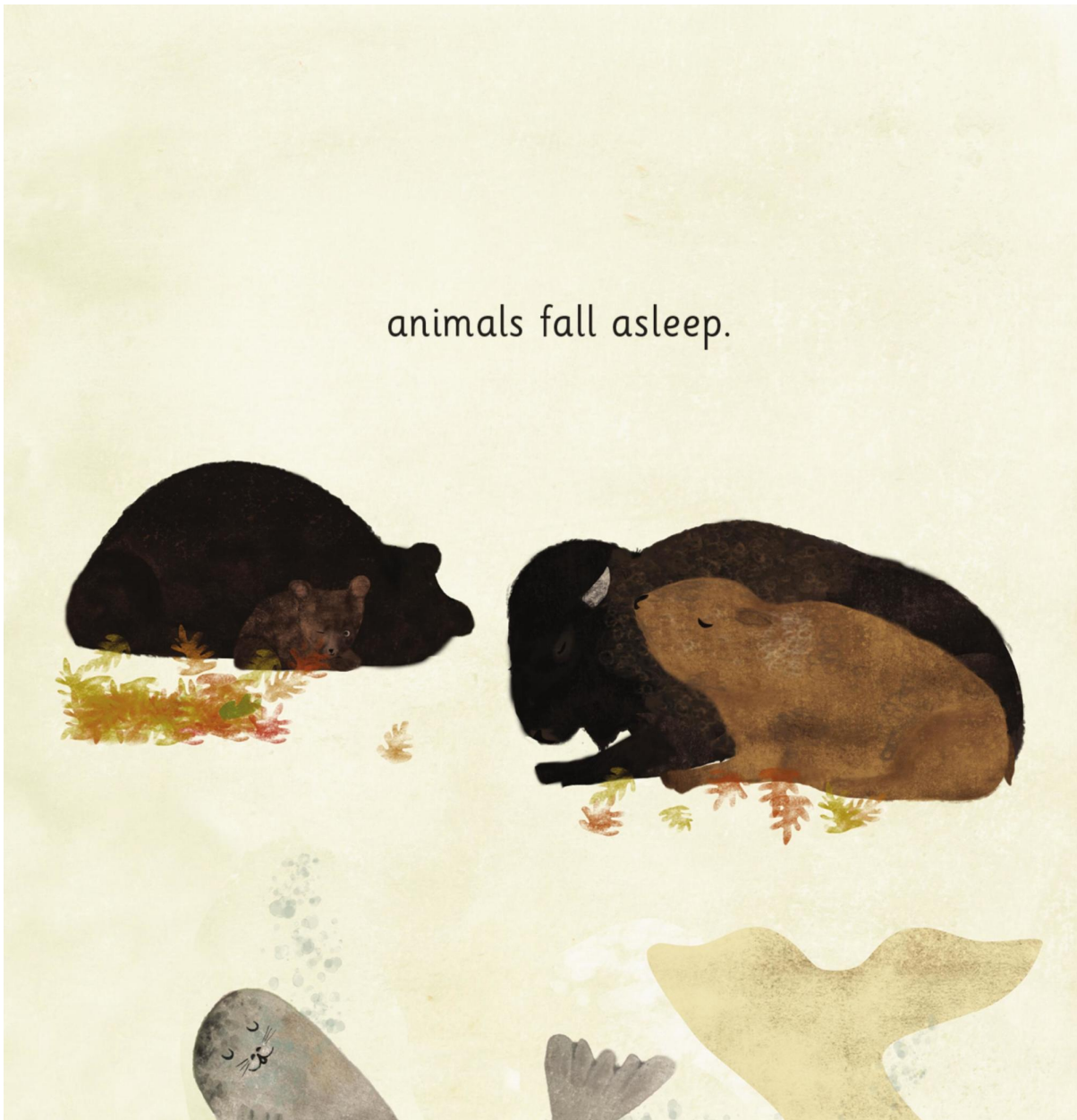


And slowly, side by side,





animals fall asleep.





We do too.  
nîstanân mîna . . . zzzz





## LIST OF ANIMALS

ENGLISH	ONE	MORE THAN ONE	YOUNGER, SMALLER, CUTER
rabbit	wâpos	wâposwak	wâposos
fox	mahkêsiw	mahkêsiwak	mahkêsis
turtle	mihkinâhk	mihkinâhkwak	mihkinâhkos
owl	ôhow	ôhowak	ôhos
beluga	wâpamêk	wâpamêkwak	wâpamêkos
seal	âhkik	âhkikwak	âhkikos
goose	niska	niskak	niskisis
bear	maskwa	maskwak	maskosis
bat	apahkwâcîs	apahkwâcîsak	—
wolf	mahihkan	mahihkanak	mahihkanis
bobcat	pisiw	pisiwak	pisîs
snake	kinêpik	kinêpikwak	kinêpikos
buffalo	paskwâwi- mostos	paskwâwi- mostoswak	paskwâwi- moscosos
child	awâsis	awâsisak	—
baby	oskawâsis	oskawâsisak	—



There are seventeen unique sounds in the Standard Roman Orthography (SRO) system used in this book. Short vowels sound much like the *a* in above, the *i* in bin and the *o* in book. Long vowels sound much like the *ā* as in water, *ē* as in bay, *î* as in beep, and *ô* as in boat. The ten consonants—*p*, *t*, *c*, *k*, *s*, *m*, *n*, *w*, *y*, and *h*—sound much like their English counterparts, except for *c* which may sound like the “ch” in chat or the “ts” in cats, depending on local preferences. For example:

- kimêtawânaw—“we (all) play”—kih-may-TUH-waa-now
- kimêtawânaw mîna—“we (all) play too”—kih-may-TUH-waa-now MEE-nuh
- nîstanân mîna—“we do too”—NEESS-tuh-naan MEE-nuh

Audio pronunciations of the Cree words in this book are available on the book page for *We All Play* at [greystonebooks.com](http://greystonebooks.com).

Translation into Plains Cree (y-dialect) edited in Standard Roman Orthography by the Cree Literacy Network ([creeliteracy.org](http://creeliteracy.org)).







## DEAR READER,

Animals play. And we play too: kimētawānaw mīna.

We all love to play. You may have played while you were reading this book. Maybe you played by sounding the words out in this book, saying them or signing them quickly and rhythmically, or getting up to jump and hop like the animals and kids in the story.

When I was growing up, my dad shared a lot about our relationship to animals and to each other, including the land, plants, beetles, the earth, wind, water, and sky. Whether we are running and hopping through the grass or rolling along the street or pondering creatures in the creek, we are all connected, living in relationship and in care to one another, in kinship. In Cree, this is called wāhkōhtowin.

I'm glad to be able to share some of this here with you hoppers and wigglers and wobblers and wanderers—and wonderers.

—Julie

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